



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-0001

MCO 3400.3E  
C 462  
10 Dec 93

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3400.3E

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, AND CHEMICAL (NBC) DEFENSE TRAINING

Ref: (a) Marine Corps Master Plan  
(b) STAGNAG 2150, NATO Standards of Proficiency for NBC Defense (NOTAL)  
(c) Draft FMFM 11; OH 11, MAGTF NBC Defense Operations (NOTAL)  
(d) MCO 3960.5, NBC Defense Equipment Test and Evaluation Program (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Basic Standards of Proficiency for the Individual Marine

1. Purpose. To promulgate the NBC defense training requirements meant to enable individuals and units to survive and continue their mission(s) while in an NBC environment.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3400.3D.

3. Summary of Revision. Order revised in its entirety.

4. Background. Reference (a) defines the Marine Corps' objectives and the capabilities required "to conduct sustained operations in a nuclear, biological, and chemical environment." While this is a MAGTF operational capability, NBC defense training at all USMC commands contributes to the Corps' readiness posture as well as to success on the battlefield.

5. Training Policy. The goal of NBC defense training is to ensure that all Marines are trained to survive and to accomplish their mission in an NBC environment. The enclosure lists basic standards of proficiency for individual Marines to be used by commanders in establishing NBC defense training programs and SOP's. These standards are established by reference (b) and applied Marine Corps wide via reference (c), regardless of MOS or duty assignment.

6. Fleet Marine Force Units. NBC defense training is to be fully integrated into combat, combat support, combat service support, and command and control exercises during offensive and defensive operations and live-fire evolutions. Integration is intended to develop and test the ability of Marines at all levels of command to understand enemy doctrine and capabilities, survive NBC attack, perform subsequent mission(s) and utilize proper NBC

reporting procedures. In addition to individual proficiency training, unit training will include:

a. Field Training Exercises and Command Post Exercises that consistently incorporate NBC defense staff planning, operations, and continuing actions by Marines.

b. Field protective mask and protective clothing confidence exercises employing CS gas at least once annually.

c. Field Firing Exercises in which each Marine assigned a T/O weapon fires the weapon while masked and each crew served weapon team fires its weapon while masked at least once annually.

7. Non-FMF Units. Individuals must be trained to survive under conditions of NBC attack and to conduct the continuing actions required to sustain the survivability and operating proficiency of the unit in an NBC environment.

8. Action

a. All Commanders

(1) Train individuals to survive in an NBC environment.

(2) Ensure personnel/units are capable of accomplishing their mission(s) in an NBC environment.

(3) Maintain NBC defense equipment established by current T/E allowances.

b. Force Commanders and CG MARRESFOR. Develop unit SOP's and establish NBC defense capabilities, with necessary personnel and equipment, down to the unit level per reference (c).

c. Commanders of CONUS Bases, Posts and Stations. Establish and disseminate NBC defense/decontamination procedures for personnel, equipment, and facilities.

d. COMMARCORSSYSCOM and COMMARCORLOGBASES. Albany GA. Assist commanders with technical support (physical testing of selected NBC defense equipment), technical assistance (instruction/construction in the use of NBC defense equipment), and administer the program outlined in reference (d).

9. Supporting Publications. Reference (c) contains a bibliography of NBC publications for reference by FMF unit commanders and NBC officers/NCO's. Stock Lists 1-2 and 1-3 contain comprehensive lists of subject matter publications to include those prepared by other services that have been adopted for use by the Marine Corps.

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10. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

  
By direction

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BASIC STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MARINE

To meet basic survival standards of proficiency in NBC Defense, the individual Marine must be able to:

1. Recognize nuclear and chemical attacks and take protective action. (PVTX 16.12)
2. Be aware of the effects of biological attack. (PVTX 16.13)
3. Recognize NBC alarms and signals.
4. Recognize the existence of a-chemical hazard and indications of a biological attack and take protective action.
5. Properly don, seat, clear and check the field protective mask within 9 seconds and complete the adjustment of the hood within 6 seconds for a total of 15 seconds following an alarm or recognition of a chemical or biological attack. (PVTX 16.3 and PVTX 16.5)
6. Take protective measures against thermal radiation (light, flash, heat), blast, and nuclear radiation effects of nuclear explosions. (PVTX 16.12)
7. Carry out immediate individual decontamination drill. (PVTX 16.9)
8. Follow procedure for field protective mask removal. (PVTX 16.12)
9. Properly don protective clothing. (PVTX 16.6)
10. Be familiar with procedures for relieving oneself while wearing protective clothing.
11. Properly perform assigned missions/tasks while wearing protective clothing.
12. Properly perform first-aid (self and buddy aid), to include assisted ventilation techniques when possible, and the use of appropriate components of first-aid/personal decontamination kit for injuries caused by chemical agents or nuclear weapons.
13. Properly operate chemical agent detection equipment.

NOTES:

1. These are basic survival standards and are not to be interpreted as restrictive when/where exceeding the standards is feasible.

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2. These standards are expanded on and amplified by:
  - a. MCO 1510 series, Individual Training Standards  
MCO 3501 series, Marine Corps Combat Readiness  
Evaluation System
  - b. Marine Battle Skills Training Handbook, Books 2-4

ENCLOSURE (1)